



City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Gaithersburg Celebrates GIS Day with a Week of Activities

Gaithersburg, MD (November 8, 2018) The City of Gaithersburg celebrates GIS Day, an annual global event, in November with discussions and activities designed to promote geography awareness and showcase Geographic Information Systems and how they impact everyday life. With more than 700 layers of information in its database, the City's GIS serves as an important tool for analysis and strategic decision making. More than just a mapping application, the GIS database helps inform staff and elected officials about such things as the availability of affordable housing, impervious surface coverage, most effective snow plow routes, access to social services, and much more.

The Mayor and City Council made an official **GIS Day proclamation** at their meeting on November 5, during which staff presented a StoryMap highlighting the growth of the GIS program over the past five years.

On November 7, guest speaker Vince Novak, Creative Services Manager at JMT Technology Group, shared with City staff his strategy for **crafting effective stories** through data visualization.

City staff will take GIS on the road on Fridays, November 9 and 16, when they visit **elementary schools** in Gaithersburg. Using mapping tools, second graders will be guided through an exercise to learn where their Thanksgiving meals come from.

City Employees will celebrate **GIS Day** on Wednesday, November 14 from 10 to 11 a.m. with map presentations, a donut-shaped food decorating challenge (a map of Gaithersburg is roughly donut-shaped because of the presence of NIST in its center) and GIS/geography trivia at City Hall.

A **Talk and Tasting** takes place on Friday, November 16 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Gaithersburg Community Museum as part of its After Hours series. Join retired geodesist David Doyle for a discussion on magnetic fields, the Prime Meridian and the future of geodetic science. A tasting with Twin Valley Distillers, Montgomery County's first operating distillery using local grains and products, kicks off the evening at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10, must be over 21 for the tasting. Registration is available online.

Explore how GIS helps us every day with hands-on activities during **Discovery Day: GIS, GPS, and Maps** at the Community Museum on Saturday, November 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A map gallery will be on exhibit showing visitors how the City has used GIS over the past year to plan events, understand housing needs, and determine watershed runoff. This event is free, but visitors are asked to register online.

For more information on these programs and other GIS initiatives, please visit the City website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov, call 301-258-6325, or e-mail gis@gaithersburgmd.gov.

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